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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/735,892 | 12/14/2000 | Takayuki Yamamoto | Q62230 | 5759 |

7590 09/04/2003

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

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| EXAMINER |
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ZIRKER, DANIEL R

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1771

DATE MAILED: 09/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE -3- MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/26/03
- ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 2, 5 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 2, 5 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachments

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 0626
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit 1771

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner again relies upon the rationale set forth in paragraph 2 of Paper No. 14, and does not agree with applicants' remarks (Response, page 3, first complete paragraph) that the substitution of --which is made of at least-- for "comprising" makes the claim more clear than what previously existed. The Examiner firmly believes that the newly presented claim limitation simply rephrases what the well known open ended term "comprising" means in the patent law, and thus applicants have failed to overcome the rejection, which is hereby repeated.

3. Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP -470 taken in view of applicants' admissions in the specification regarding the usage of pressure sensitive adhesive sheets in semiconductor processing operations as set forth on page 1 and extending to page 2, line 7 of the specification, substantially for the reasons set forth in paragraph No. 3 of Paper No. 14. The Examiner again simply reiterates the logic of his prior art rejection which has been in the application file for several past actions, since applicants

Art Unit 1771

have clearly not changed the substance of their claims in any manner. Note again the Examiner's earlier rationale set forth initially in paragraph No. 3 of Paper No. 9 that the claimed weight average molecular weight range of 930,000 to 2,100,000 is believed to at the very least intersect with the preferred number average MW range of 100,000 to 500,000 taught (page 7, line 6) by EP -470. In support of the Examiner's position note as evidence of the state of the art, Chapter IV, pages 49-53 of "Organic Coatings: Science and Technology", Volume 1, 1992, particularly at page 51, the last complete paragraph. In particular, note the teaching wherein the 2/1 minimum theoretical relationship taught as existing between the two MW ranges leads to the clear conclusion that at least the upper range taught by the reference clearly overlaps with at least the lower part of applicants' claimed range. Note also that this rationale has been in the instant application for several Office actions, and applicants have failed to overcome its logic, which is hereby repeated. As such, applicants' arguments such as whether the molecular weight is claimed "at the end of the reaction" versus "free reaction components" (Response, page 4, bottom paragraph) or that the claimed adhesive is "for use in the medical field" are each seen as clearly inadequate to rebut the prima facie case of record.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R.

Art Unit 1771

§ 1.136(a). The practice of automatically extending the shortened statutory period an additional month upon the filing of a timely first response to a final rejection has been discontinued by the Office. See 1021 TMOG 35.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Zirker whose telephone number is (703) 308-0031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Serial No. 09/735,892

-5-

Art Unit 1771

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Dzirker:cdc

August 26, 2003

DANIEL ZIRKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ~~1900~~
1700

Daniel Zinker